

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 439

Honoring the life and career of Willie Shoemaker and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family and friends on his death.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 2003

Mr. REYES (for himself and Mr. DREIER) submitted the following resolution;  
which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and career of Willie Shoemaker and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family and friends on his death.

Whereas Willie Shoemaker was born Billie Lee Shoemaker on August 19, 1931, in Fabens, Texas;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker, nicknamed the “Shoe”, is arguably the most successful jockey in the history of horse racing;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker won his first race at the age of 18 and had compiled 8,833 victories by the time he retired in 1990;

Whereas in 1970, Willie Shoemaker became the all-time leader in career wins by surpassing John Longden’s total of 6,033 wins;

Whereas on March 3, 1985, while riding Lord at War at the Santa Anita Handicap, Willie Shoemaker became the first jockey to total \$100,000,000 in purse winnings;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker held the record for career wins for 29 years;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker won four Kentucky Derbies, five Belmont Stakes, and three Preakness Stakes;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker was the oldest jockey to ride a winner in the Kentucky Derby and the Breeder's Cup;

Whereas at Santa Anita in 1990, Willie Shoemaker ran the final race of his storied 41-year career;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker is a member of thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame and the Texas Horse Racing Hall of Fame;

Whereas on April 8, 1991, just over a year after his retirement, Willie Shoemaker was involved in a car accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker was an honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Paralysis Project of America, whose mission is to accelerate progress toward finding a cure for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury; and

Whereas on October 13, 2003, America was saddened by the death of Willie Shoemaker at the age of 72: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) honors the life and legendary career in

3       horse racing of Willie Shoemaker; and

- 1           (2) expresses condolences on the passing of
- 2       Willie Shoemaker to his family and friends.

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